



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/808,657	03/15/2001	Keith E. Finger	RD0530-ASGCO	4923

110 7590 05/23/2003

DANN DORFMAN HERRELL & SKILLMAN
SUITE 720
1601 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307

EXAMINER

SHARMA, RASHMI K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3651

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/808,657	Applicant(s) Finger et al.
	Examiner Rashmi Sharma	Art Unit 3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 3, 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 4, 5, 15, 16, 24, 25, and 39-89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 29-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1, 2, 6-11, 19-22, 26-28, and 35-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3, 12-14, 17, 18, 23, and 34 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on Mar 15, 2001 is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 3651

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 4, 5, 15, 16, 24, 25, 31 and 39-89 are still withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 5.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, in claim 10 the bushing having a funnel-shaped hole for receiving the blade holder must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: it appears that claim 19, line 2 should read "with respect to the". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3651

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 8-11, 19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Swinderman et al. (U.S. patent number 4,925,434).

Swinderman et al. disclose a belt scraper comprising a blade (14) mounted on a blade holder (15), a mount (18,20 and/or 78) adapted to position the blade holder (15) transverse to a conventional conveyor belt (16), a tensioner (see figure 5) including an outer collar (64 or 74) fixed to the mount (78) and an inner collar (46 or 48) fixed to the blade holder (15), a torsion spring (58) coupled between the inner and outer collars for urging the blade towards the belt and where the tensioner includes a housing member (80) fixed with respect to the mount (20 or 78) and extending proximate the inner and outer collars and a clamp for releasably constraining the rotational position of the outer collar with respect to the housing member (please read column 4 lines 13-45). Where the mount includes a pair of spaced apart mounting plates (18,20 and/or 78) each having a hole therein where the blade holder shaft (15) is disposed in the holes of the mounting plates (18,20 and/or 78) and a bushing (34 or 42) in the hole the shaft (15) rotates. The belt scraper has a primary scraper position, a secondary scraper position and a diverting scraper position with respect to the belt.

Art Unit: 3651

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2, 6, 7, 20, 22, 26-28 and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swinderman et al. U.S. Patent Number (4,925,434) in view of Rappen U.S. Patent Number (4,838,409).

Swinderman et al. as discussed above, fails to disclose a blade body having a plurality of pairs of parallel skirts defining a blade cavity, while the blade holder is disposed in the blade cavity with the skirts releasably engaging the blade holder, thereby limiting longitudinal movement of the blade with respect to the blade holder and where the blade, blade holder and tensioner is made of a material compatible with the sanitary processing of food and food products.

Rappen does indeed disclose a blade body having a pair of skirts (see figure 2) defining a blade cavity while the blade holder (2) is disposed in the blade cavity, thereby limiting the longitudinal movement of the blade with respect to the blade holder.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the pair of skirts utilized in Rappen's invention to the invention of

Art Unit: 3651

Swinderman et al.'s in order to provide for more ease in adjusting the positioning of the scraper blade of Swinderman's invention. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide for a plurality of pairs of skirts in Swinderman's invention in order to more securely position the scraper blade. And finally, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use a material that is compatible with the sanitary processing of food and food products for the blade, blade holder and tensioner in order to provide for greater utilization of the specific type of belt cleaner claimed in this application. Belt scrapers are well known in the art to clear out debris of all kinds within a conveyor system, whether it be for food products or materials being conveyed of any kind.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 29-33 have been allowed.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 29 recites the structural limitations of a belt scraper comprising a blade body having a pair of flexible skirts defining a blade cavity for receiving and releasably engaging a blade holder, a tensioner having a stationary member extending proximate the blade holder and a clamp having a locking handle engaging the blade holder through a first slot of the stationary member, in combination with the rest of the recited structure, clearly defines over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 3651

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Claims 3, 12-14, 17, 18, 23 and 34 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

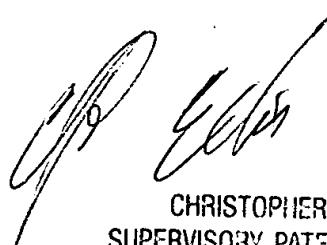
Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 6-14, 17-23 and 26-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Rashmi Sharma who can be reached at 703-306-5952 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any general inquiry concerning the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist who can be reached at 703-308-1113.



CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600